Entry of Reliance in LPG retail market

1053. SHRI LAJPAT RAI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Reliance Company is entering in the retail market of LPG in the country;

(b) if so, what will be the price of the LPG in comparison to that already supplied by Government to the consumers;

(c) whether the price would include the subsidy also; and

(d) if not, what would be the outlet for the disposal of the LPG produced by the Reliance?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) to (d) The reliance Petroleum Limited (RPL) is allowed to market LPG under Parallel Marketing System under which, a parallel marketeer is allowed to carry out any or all of the business of importing, bottling, storing, distribution or selling in bulk or in retail, packed or filled in cylinder, Liquified Petroleum Gas under his own arrangement at non-subsidised market determined prices. Indigenously produced LPG by M/s. Reliance Petroleum Limited is marketed through Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies, at present.

Estimated oil import bill

1054. SHRI K.M. KHAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the oil import bill of Government are increasing day by day;

(b) if so, the details of oil import bill during the last three years, year-wise;

(c) the estimated oil import bill during the current financial year;

(d) whether Government have taken any steps to check the increase in oil import bill; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The details of net oil import bill during the last three years are as under:

	Rs./crore
1998-99	26,886
1999-2000	53,515
2000-2001	70,353

(c) The estimated import bill during the current financial year is Rs. 78,673 crore.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) Government has taken several steps to increase crude oil production in the country which include:

(i) To improve the recovery factor from existing major fields by implementing Enhanced Oil Recovery (EOR)/Improved Oil Recovery (IOR) schemes. These would also help in accelerating oil production from the fields.

(ii) To add reserves by exploring in the deeper layers in the producing areas.

(iii) The explore in the new areas specially in deep water and difficult frontier areas.

(iv) To develop faster the newly discovered oil fields.

(v) To increase workover and stimulation operations.

(vi) To increase exploration efforts through the New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP).

(vii) The increase use of 3-D seismic surveys in new and producing areas.

Steps have also been taken to increase refining capacity by expansion of existing refineries in public sector and setting up of refineries in joint sector.